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nations in general. In the first alternative this treatment is too general; the additional time needed to read the three hundred and seventy pages of Hearnshaw's *Main currents of European history, 1815-1915* would be well repaid by the greater measure of detailed data given in that volume along with the interpretative work. In the latter case the field is unwieldily *in toto*. Such history as involves the statement: "The nineteenth century went on," is likely to lack the grit of reality. To deal with centuries in few pages in a very unsatisfactory proceeding.

Within the limits of these considerations, however, the author certainly achieves all that could reasonably be hoped for, and to the reader who knows the facts already the text is a delightful visit to old haunts.

P. B. P.

Social studies of the war. By Elmer T. Clark. (New York: George H. Doran company, 1919. 283 p. \$1.50)

With unusual opportunities for close observation resulting from a long and intimate participation in many phases of war activities and among the civilian population in the leading cities of Europe, Mr. Clark makes some startling disclosures and gives the thinking world much cause for serious thought. He writes from the standpoint of the man in the street, yet his bias is that of a profound believer in the spiritual realities. His main thesis deals with the moral and religious status of Europe as a result of the war.

The author finds that the moral principles and conduct of the civilian population have been greatly lowered. There has been a letting down of barriers, due in some measure to the entrance of women into all kinds of war activities; while women have gained in economic freedom, they have lost immeasurably in the public estimation and in moral status. This sweeping statement is applied to all classes. The refugees, the wives and widows of the soldiers, left rudderless and open to all sorts of temptations, have especially suffered, and the home is in danger. The evil permeates the upper classes, and some of it, with considerable evidence, is attributed to German propaganda, particularly as it affected the efficient conduct of the war.

In this serious crisis, the author finds the church helpless in every way to cope with the problem. Its traditions and its working system are set in a groove which renders it useless as an organ of moral, social, or spiritual regeneration. In the war the established church was an obstructionist. It foolishly interfered with Sunday games among the soldiers and that, together with the exemption of the clergy from military service, has caused the church to lose prestige. The call is for disestablishment and reconstruction.

For this reconstruction the author sees little hope, since the great ideas

for which the war stands—democracy, human brotherhood, and social readjustment—are not acceptable to an autocratic church which distrusts the people. This is likewise true of the Roman Catholic church, which has lost caste by its apparent pro-German attitude and its participation in the Irish rebellion. In Italy, Belgium, and France the papacy is no longer respected.

In spite of his profanity and other weaknesses, the soldier, Mr. Clark finds, is essentially religious. The war has emphasized the God-idea, but the soldier's "natural religion" is unformulated and creedless. It needs a theology—a working principle—lest it drift into pure idealism, immorality, or be exploited by rationalism. There is a world-wide need, an immense opportunity, for the church if it can free itself from the dead weight of ecclesiasticism and become a spiritual church in reality.

Among the toilers and in the war-torn countries of Europe the author sees a new birth, but emphasizes the dangers from an untrained and ignorant democracy. He devotes some chapters to Ireland's problem, its historic background, and the possibility of adjustment. In one chapter he makes the "Heritage of hate" the most serious result of this world conflict. The alliance between Germany and Turkey, and finally the "City of horrible nights" in which he pictures with great vividness what Europe underwent in the air raids, form the subjects of the closing chapters of a book which, at least, gives us new light and a new demand for American participation in the world problem.

A new municipal program. By Clinton Rogers Woodruff. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1919. 392 p. \$2.25)

The work of the National municipal league in the interest of better city government in the United States is or should be well known to all students of the social sciences. The present volume in the series published under the auspices of the league is perhaps the most noteworthy contribution made so far by the organization. Briefly, its purpose is the presentation of the model city charter which has been sponsored by the league and a discussion of the various features of the charter by the authorities who were originally responsible for its framing. The book follows in general principles the plan of its predecessor, *A municipal program* (Macmillan company, 1900), which first gave to the public the results of the league's six years of effort toward the formulation of "a working system consistent with American industrial and political conditions, and embodying the essential principles that must underlie successful municipal government in this country." *A new municipal program* is a presentation of the original thesis in the light of nineteen additional years of study and experiment.

The volume outlines clearly the general principles which the league